



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

November 22, 2018

Hon. Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
New York State Assembly
LOB, Room 932
Albany, New York 12248

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Democratic Conference Leader
New York State Senate
188 State Street LOB, Room 907
Albany, New York 12247

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York
The Capitol
Albany, New York 1224

Dear Speaker Heastie, Democratic Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to you on this Thanksgiving holiday with a heavy heart on the sudden passing of my former colleague, New York State Senator José Peralta. It was my privilege as a fellow Dominican-American to serve with Senator Peralta who was an honorable steward of the public trust and tireless representative for communities in Corona, East Elmhurst, Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and Woodside. I know that I share this sentiment with many of my peers; and undoubtedly so by both Democratic Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie.

On behalf of his constituents in New York City and the greater Immigrant diaspora in New York State, he was unyielding in his desire to see the New York state DREAM Act passed and signed into law. As the main sponsor of this bill in both the New York State Assembly and Senate; he believed with every fiber of his being that we have an obligation to ensure that every opportunity for equity and advancement should be available to all persons. Having stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Senator Peralta advocating for the New York state DREAM Act leaves no doubt in my mind that this is the incontrovertible legacy of Senator José Peralta. I am writing today not in somber fraternity; but hopeful for the future that Senator Peralta believed would come to pass.

In the memory of Senator Peralta, I respectfully ask that when then New York State Legislative Session reconvene on January 9th, 2019; that both the Assembly and Senate may name the New York state DREAM Act in honor of Senator José Peralta and upon passage; that the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, sign such a bill into law recognizing and codifying its most ardent champion, New York Senator José Peralta into the official record.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Espaillat', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Adriano Espaillat
U.S. House of Representatives
New York's 13th Congressional District